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Your Pathways  
to Preparedness

# Important Contact Information

## For an Emergency or Life Safety Issue, Dial 9-1-1

Community Information Hotline	Dial 2-1-1
Brevard County Fire Rescue (Non-Emergency)	321-633-2056
Brevard County Crime Tip Line	800-423-8477
Brevard County Sheriff (Non-Emergency)	
North Area	321-264-5100
Central Area	321-633-7162
South Area	321-952-6371
Florida Information Line (Active During Disasters)	800-342-3557
Florida Power and Light (Report an Outage)	800-468-8243
Florida Price Gouging Hotline (To Report)	866-966-7226
Florida Highway Patrol (From Any Cell)	*FHP
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	850-245-2118
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	850-488-4676
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	800-621-3362
Florida City Gas	888-352-5325

### Text Alerts

 To receive text message updates on your cell phone, text Follow BrevardEOC to 40404 (normal text messaging rates apply).



### Social Media

Follow @BrevardEOC on Twitter



Like "Brevard County Emergency Management" on Facebook.

## Online Resources

Below are suggestions for tools to help get you started making a plan:

Brevard County Emergency Management	<a href="http://www.embrevard.com">www.embrevard.com</a>
Florida Division of Emergency Management	<a href="http://www.floridadisaster.org">www.floridadisaster.org</a>
Federal Emergency Management Agency	<a href="http://www.ready.gov">www.ready.gov</a>
National Weather Service Melbourne	<a href="http://www.weather.gov/mlb">www.weather.gov/mlb</a>
National Hurricane Center	<a href="http://www.nhc.noaa.gov">www.nhc.noaa.gov</a>
Center for Disease Control	<a href="http://www.cdc.gov">www.cdc.gov</a>

# Step 1: Know Your Risks

The first step to understanding risk in our community is to learn about the potential hazards. Brevard County Emergency Management's All-Hazard Readiness Guide is designed to provide you with an overview on:

- Preparing for any hazard
- Staying safe during an incident
- Recovering from an incident
- Increasing resiliency through preparedness



## Resources for Risk Determination

- Review the All-Hazards Readiness Guide and the Brevard County Emergency Management website ([www.EMBrevard.com](http://www.EMBrevard.com)) for more detailed information.
- Engage with the experts, such as Emergency Management and the National Weather Service – Melbourne, through social media, online website, or community events.

Preparedness can reduce fear and increase resiliency from the impacts of disasters. Communities, families, and individuals should know what to do during an emergency situation.



Know Your Risk

## Step 2: Build a Kit



A disaster supply kit is a collection of essential items your household may need in the event of an emergency. Assemble your kit, and review it annually. If you evacuate, take your kit with you – and ensure you can carry it or put it on wheels.

### Basic

- Water: one gallon of water per person, per day, for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food: at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio, a weather radio, and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags, & plastic ties
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Manual can opener for food
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter, or solar charger
- Cash
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification, etc.

### Additional

- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Shot records for pet(s)
- A carrier for each pet
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Complete change of clothing
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- Whistle to signal for help
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Books, games, puzzles, or other activities for children
- Paper and pen/pencil



## Step 3: Have a Plan

Having a plan for what to do in the event of an emergency is the most important step you can take. Think about the situations which can affect our community and how that would affect your household. If separated, make sure you have a designated meeting point and that everyone knows where it is.

### Create a Disaster Plan



To develop a disaster plan, think through the questions below, write out the steps, discuss them with your household, and then practice your plan every year. The best plan is one that all members of the household know and can implement when necessary! Simple planning tools are available at: [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) and [FLGetaPlan.com](https://www.FLGetaPlan.com).

#### Household Plan Considerations:

- How will my household get emergency alerts and warnings?
- How will my household evacuate if ordered?
- Where will my household go if evacuating?
- How will my household get in touch if cell phone, internet, or landline doesn't work?
- How will I let loved ones know I am safe?
- How will my household reunite after the emergency?

#### Business Plan Considerations:

It is also important to develop a plan for your business. You can access a simple business planning tool at [FLGetaPlan.com](https://www.FLGetaPlan.com).

There are five main areas to think about when developing a preparedness program:

- Program Management
- Planning
- Implementation
- Testing and Exercises
- Program Improvement

Consider communication with employees throughout the disaster!



# Make a Plan for Your Property

## Insurance and Inventory Tips

- Update your Homeowner's insurance policy for adequate coverage. If you rent, obtain Renter's insurance.
- Purchase flood insurance. With few exceptions, you must wait 30 days after you first purchase a flood insurance policy before it will take effect. Regular homeowner's insurance does not cover flooding.
- Keep a copy of insurance policies with your agent's contact information.
- Have a household inventory. Use photos or video, if possible.
- Keep copies of all other critical documents.

## General Guidelines

- Trim or remove damaged trees and limbs, remove debris and lawn cuttings, and dispose of them correctly before hurricane season.
- Inspect roof, and repair/replace any damaged areas.
- Remove/secure outside items, like patio furniture, tools, and garbage cans.
- Anchor storage sheds and objects that are unsafe to bring inside, like gas grills or propane tanks.
- Secure loose rain gutters and downspouts and clear any clogged areas or debris to prevent water damage to your property.
- Remove flammable materials within 30 feet of your home's foundation, garages, and sheds.
- If you have a generator for power outages, remember to keep generators and other alternate power/heat sources outside, at least 20 feet away from windows and doors, and protected from moisture.
- Reduce property damage by strengthening roof, windows, & garage doors.

# Plan for Mobile and Manufactured Homes



## Know Your Risk

- Mobile and manufactured homes face the largest risk of damage due to the potential impacts from high winds.
- Never ride out a hurricane in a mobile or manufactured home, even if it is not in an evacuation zone.
- According to the National Hurricane Center, no mobile or manufactured home is a safe shelter from hurricane-force winds or tornadoes.
- If in a tornado watch, make a plan to stay with a friend or neighbor in a strong structure for the duration of the severe weather event.
- If in a tornado warning, seek shelter in the strongest interior room and bring a pillow or helmet to protect your head.

## Home Improvements

- Secure any items outside your home; tie them down or bring inside.
- Inspect tie-downs annually. Make sure they are anchored securely to the foundation.
- Make sure your homes' skirting is in good condition and repair any damaged areas.
- Reduce property damage by strengthening your roof, windows, and doors.
- While still not a safe place to shelter, tie-downs and hurricane straps can prevent your mobile home from coming loose and causing damage or blocking the roadway.
- Consider adding a reinforced safe room to your home.



# Shelter Options

There are three types of evacuation shelters available to the public: Primary Evacuation Shelters, Special Needs Shelters, and Pet-Friendly Shelters.

## Shelter openings are incident-specific.

Never go to a shelter unless local officials have announced it is open. Shelter openings will be announced through local television, radio stations, social media, and the Brevard County Emergency Management website.

Shelters are designed to house residents of the barrier islands (including Merritt Island), those in low-lying or flood-prone areas, those in mobile or manufactured homes, or those with no other sheltering options.

If you choose to go to a shelter, follow these instructions:

- Stay as calm as possible, and take your Disaster Supply Kit.
- Bring your own cots or sleeping materials.
- Bring changes of clothing, and wear sturdy shoes.
- If you have dietary restrictions, bring food that you will be able to eat.
- Bring what you will need to stay comfortable and entertained.
- Not all shelters will have electricity throughout the emergency.

Shelter Rules – If staying in a shelter, be aware of the shelter rules:

- We are guests. Please treat the facility, equipment, and staff respectfully.
- No disorderly or disruptive behavior will be allowed.
- No smoking, alcohol, or drugs allowed.
- No guns or weapons of any kind permitted.
- You must sign in when you arrive, and sign out when you leave.

Shelters are intended to keep you safe, not necessarily comfortable. Remember, a shelter is a life boat, not a cruise ship.



# Preparing to Go to a Shelter



A shelter is a place to go in the event of an evacuation, but it can be noisy, crowded, and have few personal comforts.

Shelters should be your last resort if you have nowhere else to go.

A shelter is a stressful environment for everyone; please treat your fellow evacuees with courtesy and kindness.

Residents going to a shelter need to take their own supplies, some of which may be found in your disaster supply kit:

- Bring your own pillows, sheets, blankets, portable cot or air mattress, chaise lounge, folding chairs, or sleeping bags.
- Cots or beds are not provided.
- If you are on a special diet, bring a supply of nonperishable food that will be sufficient for 3 days per person.
- All required medications and medical support equipment:
  - Wheelchair/walker, oxygen, dressings, feeding and suction equipment, diapers, etc.
  - Any specific medication or care instructions (2-week supply)
- Personal hygiene items, like toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, towels, brush/comb, dentures, glasses, eye drops, diapers, etc.
- Entertainment items, like games, cards, books, magazines, etc.

## Persons with Disabilities, Barriers, or Impairments

By evaluating your own personal needs and making an emergency plan, you can be better prepared for any situation.

- Inventory what you use every day to live independently. Identify the essential items you will need for at least three days.
- Stock custom essentials in your kit like: durable medical equipment, assistive technology, etc.
- Have a method to communicate your impairments and needs.

Remember, being ready is the key to maintaining your independence.



# Individuals with Pets

Having a plan is important and that plan should include your pets. Pet owners are strongly advised to make prior arrangements for sheltering their pets during emergencies.

To find information on hotels that will accept pets, visit:

- Pets Welcome - <http://www.petswelcome.com>
- Bring Fido - <http://www.bringfido.com>

It is strongly encouraged that you make a list of potential hotels ahead of time, and begin calling immediately prior to evacuating. Be sure your plan includes a backup option in case you can't care for your animals. Pets should not be left behind unattended.

Pet-friendly shelters are designed to accommodate household pets. Owners are responsible for the feeding, care, clean-up, and behavior of their pets.

Shelter openings are incident-specific. Never go to a shelter unless local officials have announced it is open.

If you go to a pet-friendly shelter, you will need:

- Current rabies vaccination certificate
- Shot records
- Leash and collar
- County animal license tags
- Medications
- Crate or cage for each animal
- Pet food
- Cleaning supplies
- Newspaper or pet pad
- Comfort items for your pets

For information on disaster preparedness for large animals or livestock, visit:  
[www.brevardfl.gov/EmergencyManagement/Preparedness/Pets](http://www.brevardfl.gov/EmergencyManagement/Preparedness/Pets)

# Individuals with Special Needs



The Brevard County Special Needs program is for residents with specific health and/or medical conditions needing assistance with sheltering in times of an emergency during an evacuation. Residents who meet the Special Needs criteria and have no other alternative for safe shelter should register with Emergency Management. Once registered, annual updates are required to keep information current.

Applications can be requested from Brevard County Emergency Management either online at [www.embrevard.com](http://www.embrevard.com) or by calling 321-637-6670. You can also talk to your home health care agency, hospice agency, medical supply company, or other caregiver who can assist with completing an application.

## For Special Needs Clients with Pets

As part of the Special Needs registration application, there will be space provided to share information about your pets. Due to health concerns, pets are NOT allowed in Special Needs shelters, so when it comes time to go to the shelter, you will receive a call which will verify your need to be taken to a shelter and pet information. You will be given an approximate time that you will be picked up and Animal Services will pick up your pet.

You will need to have your disaster kit, your pet, and their items ready. Once the emergency has passed, and you have returned home, Animal Services will return your pet to you.

## Transportation Assistance to a Shelter

Transportation is free to all Special Needs and primary evacuation shelters. Residents can register for transportation assistance to a shelter through the County's Special Needs Program.



# Plan for an Evacuation

Evacuations are more common than many people realize. Fires and floods cause evacuations most frequently, and residents along the coast will need to evacuate when a hurricane approaches. Listen to local officials for evacuation orders and relevant information, and do as directed.

The amount of time you have will depend on the hazard. For a hurricane, you might have a day or two to get ready. However, many disasters allow no time for people to gather even the most basic necessities, which is why planning ahead is essential.

- Know your primary and alternate evacuation routes; choose several destinations in different directions so you have options in an emergency.
- Evacuate early.
- Travel tens of miles, not hundreds of miles, and shelter locally.
  - Choose a sturdy home or hotel outside of the evacuation zone, or in a public shelter.
- Remember, shelter openings are incident-specific – so tune into the local news, radio, social media, or contact the Community Information Hotline (2-1-1) for open shelter locations.

## Transportation Assistance to a Shelter

Transportation is free to all Special Needs and primary evacuation shelters, and will be provided to residents who register a transportation request either as a part of a special needs application or if a resident has no means of transport to a shelter. Transportation will only be provided to and from a shelter. No other destinations will be provided. More information about the Special Needs registry can be found on Page 10.

## Step 4: Stay Informed

During a disaster, the Brevard County Emergency Management website will display all the latest information. If you do not have access to the internet, call 2-1-1 for this information.

### Text Alerts



To receive text message updates on your cell phone, text Follow BrevardEOC to 40404 (normal text messaging rates apply).



### Social Media

Follow @BrevardEOC on Twitter



Like “Brevard County Emergency Management” on Facebook.

## AlertBrevard Notifications

You can be notified about emergencies by registering for AlertBrevard. If you have an unlisted number, or rely on a cell phone as your main telephone, it is critical that you register your number at [www.embrevard.com](http://www.embrevard.com), by clicking on the “Alert Sign Up” button.

## NOAA Weather Warnings

The best way to receive warnings for hazardous weather is to have a NOAA Weather Radio. The NOAA Weather Radio is the National Weather Service’s direct link to the public, and provides severe weather watches and warnings. The primary frequency for Weather Alert Radios in Brevard County is 162.550MHz and the SAME (FIPS) code is 012009.

## Community Information Hotline

2-1-1 is a simple, easy-to-remember number to call when you want to find or give help in Brevard County. During an emergency, the Community Information Hotline can be a resource for information and assistance options.



## Step 5: Get Involved

Building a culture of preparedness is how we make Brevard a more resilient community. A trained, informed, and engaged public is the best way to empower individuals to lend support. There are many ways to get involved so you can make a positive difference.

- Volunteer with existing disaster support organizations such as United Way, 2-1-1 Brevard, the Salvation Army, and the American Red Cross.
- Build a volunteer team with your faith-based or community group, and join the Brevard Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).
- Join or start a preparedness project. Find an event or identify local resources, build a team, choose a project, set goals, and serve your community.
- Talk to your neighbors so that they know their risks and encourage them to be prepared.
- Make a financial contribution to a volunteer agency involved in disaster relief. This is the most efficient way of helping people in need after a disaster.
- Before donating any goods, including food or clothing, wait for instructions from local officials or check with a specific organization.

To learn more about local agencies that support Brevard County during a disaster and are looking for volunteers, please visit the Emergency Management website at:

[www.brevardfl.gov/EmergencyManagement/Volunteers](http://www.brevardfl.gov/EmergencyManagement/Volunteers)

# Returning Home

## Getting Back to Your House

Be patient. You may not be able to return to your home or business until safety hazards, such as debris and downed power lines, are cleared. If you live on a barrier island, you may need to wait until bridges are inspected.

- Residents – Carry valid ID with your current address.
- Businesses – Have a valid picture ID, documents showing proof of ownership/ rental, County or City business tax receipt, and names of individuals authorized to be given access on business letterhead.
- Avoid driving, especially through water. Turn around, don't drown! Roads may have debris which can puncture your tires.

## Once Back Home

Once you arrive back home, walk around the outside first to survey damage and enter with caution. Enter the home carefully and check for damage. Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home. If your home has been flooded, have a licensed electrician complete an inspection.

The following items are other things to check inside your home:

- If you smell gas or hear a hissing or blowing sound, open a window and leave immediately.
- If appliances are wet, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker.
- If water or sewage pipes are damaged, turn off main water valve.
- Throw out all food and other supplies that you suspect may have become contaminated or come into contact with floodwater.
- Clean up household chemical spills. Disinfect items that may have been contaminated by raw sewage, bacteria, or chemicals. Also clean salvageable items.

Take pictures of the damages, and call your insurance agent. Keep good records of repair and cleaning costs.

# Help us build a culture of preparedness in Brevard County.

Know  
your  
risks.



Build  
a kit.



Have  
a plan.



Stay  
informed.



Get  
involved.



Follow @BrevardEOC on Twitter.



Like “Brevard County Emergency Management” on Facebook.



Text FOLLOW BREVARDEOC to 40404 to receive text message updates on your cell phone.



During disasters, call the Community Information Hotline by dialing 2-1-1.

Brevard County Emergency Management  
1746 Cedar Street  
Rockledge, FL 32955  
321-637-6670  
[www.embrevard.com](http://www.embrevard.com)

